MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 10, 1999

TIME:

12:15 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

DATE:

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

PLACE:

Canal Commission Office

Stockton, New Jersey



DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Marshall, Pauley, Torpey; Ms. Armstrong,

Ms. Goodspeed, Mrs. Nash and Ms. Shaddow (representative for

Mayor Palmer)

STAFF:

Mr. Amon and Ms. Holms

Mr. Lewin Weyl, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS:

Susan Herron, D&R Canal State Park

Bill McKelvey, Canal Society of New Jersey

Joel Coyne, GIS Consultant

Mr. Torpey opened the meeting and announced that this was a regular meeting of the D&R Canal Commission and that all provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 had been met.

MINUTES

Mrs. Nash moved approval of the minutes of February 17, 1999 and Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. Messrs. Marshall, Pauley, Torpey, Ms. Armstrong and Mrs. Nash voted in favor of the motion; Ms. Goodspeed abstained. The motion passed.

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS

Mr. Amon presented two "A" Zone applications for approval:

98-2489 - Mercer Molding Expansion - Lawrence Township, Mercer County



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James C. Amon

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Christine Todd Whitman, Governor Robert C. Shinn, Jr. Commissioner

A proposed addition to an existing manufacturing building will result in an overall decrease in impervious surface. There is another industrial site between this project and the Canal Park; Mr. Amon said there would be no harmful visual impact.

98-2289A - Riverwalk Renovation - Lambertville

Mr. Amon said that the Commission's engineer reviewed stormwater management for the project and found it to be in compliance with the regulations. He said that the applicant is proposing to expand a commercial site, originally an historic mill. He said the proposed expansion was in keeping with the historic character of the existing building and would be a visual improvement. Ms. Goodspeed moved approval of the two "A" Zone projects; Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. Messrs. Marshall, Pauley, Torpey, Ms. Armstrong and Ms. Goodspeed voted in favor of the motion; Mrs. Nash abstained. The motion passed.

Mr. Amon presented the following "A" Zone application for waiver:

99-2259A - Olsommer Deck - Franklin Township, Somerset County

Mr. Amon said that the deck would be blocked from view from the Canal Park by existing buildings. Ms. Goodspeed moved waiver of the Olsommer Deck; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then presented two "B" Zone applications for approval:

99-2516 - Hillsborough Cinemas - Hillsborough Township 98-2449 - Bristol-Myers Squibb Headquarters Park - Montgomery Township

Mr. Amon said that the two projects conformed with the Commission's regulations for stormwater management. Mr. Pauley moved approval of the two "B" Zone projects; Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon presented a problematic stream corridor issue, whereby developers often propose houses to be built adjacent to the stream corridor buffer line, allowing little or no backyard for the prospective homeowner. Mr. Amon said that homeowners may not be aware of a conservation easement that protected the stream corridor and could inadvertently disturb the corridor by clearing vegetation. Mr. Amon and the Commissioners agreed that requiring the installation of 3-foot monuments in these cases would help protect the stream corridor.

PRESENTATION OF MAPPING PROJECT

Mr. Amon and Joel Coyne, GIS consultant for the Commission, presented the work they have been doing in creating a "virtual tour" of the Canal Park. The "tour" consists of 18 layers of maps and associated data about the Canal Park that have been digitized (computer-mapping), using

aerial photos. The maps contain many of the historic, recreational, and natural features of the Canal Park, and also include those same features in areas that are adjacent or near the Canal Park.

OLD BUSINESS

25th Anniversary Planning

Mr. Amon distributed a draft event schedule that Linda Barth prepared. The Commissioners discussed an event planned for June 13th, which is being held to acknowledge and celebrate those people that were instrumental in founding the Canal Park. It was determined that more planning was needed for this event, and a committee was formed to help plan the event.

Mr. Torpey suggested that next month's meeting include a special session to be held in the morning as a retreat for the Commissioners. He said that he spoke to Senator Batemen about facilitating the retreat, who said he would be very interested in attending, schedule permitting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Amon reported that more meetings have been scheduled to resolve the cleanup proposal of the GAF site in South Bound Brook. He also said that New Jersey Transit has worked out the details to build a pedestrian bridge across Crosswicks Creek as part of their proposal for a train route along the abandoned section of the canal in Hamilton Township.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Herron announced that the project to clear a trail between Lamberton Road and Bordentown is completed. In addition, trails have been made between the scenic overlook and Lock One, and between the railroad tracks and Lock One. She said that a full-time historic preservation specialist has been hired, and that interviews are being conducted for an assistant superintendent at Bull's Island.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James C. Amon